



Understanding Sexual Assault



Overview

00/11/16

- Marine Corps Policy
- Sexual Assault Defined
- Common Myths
- Offender Characteristics
- Prevention Tips



Overview

00/11/16

- Responding to Sexual Assault
- Reporting Requirements
- Assistance for Victims

Marine Corps Policy

00/11/16



- Zero tolerance for sexual assault
- Sexual assault is a criminal act
- Victims have access to appropriate assistance
- Perpetrators of sexual assault will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law
- Commanding officers of perpetrators will take appropriate disciplinary and/or administrative action



Impact on Readiness

00/11/16

- Diminishes the reputation and prestige of the Marine Corps
- Creates serious morale problems
- Destroys esprit de corps
- Trauma for victims can create short-term as well as life-long problems
- Impacts everyone in the unit



DoD Definition

00/11/16

- Sexual Assault is a crime. Sexual assault is defined as intentional sexual contact, characterized by the use of force, physical threat or abuse of authority or when the victim does not or cannot consent. Sexual assault includes rape, nonconsensual sodomy (oral or anal sex), indecent assault (unwanted, inappropriate sexual contact or fondling), or attempts to commit these acts. Sexual assault can occur without regard to gender or spousal relationship or age of victim.



DoD Definition

00/11/16

- “Consent” shall not be deemed or construed to mean the failure by the victim to offer physical resistance. Consent is not given when a person uses force, threat of force, coercion or when the victim is asleep, incapacitated, or unconscious.



DoD Definition

00/11/16

- Other sex-related offenses are defined as all other sexual acts or acts in violation of the UCMJ that do not meet the DOD definition of sexual assault, or the definition of sexual harassment as promulgated in DoD Directive 1350.2, Dept of Defense Military Equal Opportunity, para E2.1.15. Examples of other sex-related offenses could include indecent acts with another and adultery.



Sexual Assault is an Umbrella Term

00/11/16

- Includes:
 - Animate and inanimate object penetration
 - Sodomy
 - Attempted rape
 - Attempted sodomy

All forms of sexual assault are crimes

Common Themes in the Military



00/11/16



- Alcohol use/abuse
- Acquaintance or co-worker
- Consent is muddy issue
 - Clothing removal typically not forcible
 - “I didn’t want to..but didn’t say anything”
 - “She didn’t say ‘no’”
 - “She said ‘no’ but I thought she was kidding...”
- Both victim and alleged perpetrator are commonly junior in rank and in their 20’s



Do You Know the Facts?



Rape Myths

00/11/16

- Rape is a crime of passion
 - Rape is an act of violence. It is using sex as a weapon to gain power and control over a victim.
- The rapist is usually a stranger lurking in a dark alley
 - The majority of victims know their attacker either as an acquaintance, friend, co-worker, or family member. Most rapes occur in familiar places such as a home, friend's house, dorm room, car...



Rape Myths

00/11/16

- Only the young and attractive, provocative, or careless are raped
 - Rape can happen to anybody—children, grandmothers, students, working women, mothers, sisters, your closest friend, you...
 - Offenders tend to target those who look vulnerable and easily intimidated, regardless of their age, physical attributes, or dress.



Rape Myths

00/11/16

- She said “no, but meant yes.”
 - The belief that women just cannot admit they want sex and men have to overcome their hesitation is a dangerous myth. “No” means “no”. Always.
- Men cannot be raped
 - Sexual assault, no matter the gender of the perpetrator or victim, is a form of violence where sex is used to demean and humiliate another person. Sexual assault is not a woman’s issue. One in 33 men have been victims of sexual assault in their lifetime. Most often the perpetrator is a heterosexual male.



Rape Myths

00/11/16

- If a victim has had prior consensual sex with an attacker or agrees to go somewhere private then it cannot be rape
 - Nothing, not even previous consensual sex, entitles anyone to force another to perform sexual acts
 - Further, a victim's cooperation to go "somewhere private" with the suspect is not an invitation to rape her and should never be viewed by the criminal justice system as an indication of consent



Who Are The Offenders?



The Stereotype

00/11/16

- Looks threatening
- Carries some type of weapon
- Stalks his victims like a predator
- Attacks women at night in parks and dark streets, or breaking into their homes
- Leaves the victim physically brutalized
- Is a stranger



The Truth

00/11/16

- He can and does look like "any Marine"
- Could be of any rank, any race, any age, a top performer, outstanding athlete, or the "good" Samaritan who offers help
- He is the handsome guy she meets at a barracks room, a friend's house, or the former boyfriend.



Offender Characteristics

00/11/16

- The sex offenders who are committing the vast majority of rapes are
 - Representative of a very small percentage of the male population
 - Clever about their choice of victim (they attack "acquaintances")
 - Controlled in their aggression
 - Rarely reported, prosecuted or convicted

What Convicted Rapists Tell US

00/11/16



- The typical sex offender:
 - Typically premeditates the sexual assault
 - Uses only as much violence as is necessary
 - Engages in consensual and coercive sex far more often than is typical for men of his age group
 - Uses alcohol to dis-inhibit himself and render the victim vulnerable
 - Views women as sexual objects to be conquered, coerced and used for self-gratification
 - Adopts highly "gendered" identity; sees himself as hyper-masculine and often privileged
 - Possesses very smooth and charming personal style



Is Sexual Assault Preventable?



Risk Reduction Tips

00/11/16

- Know where you are at all times
- Act like you know where you are going
- Communicate your needs and wishes clearly
- Be assertive
- Avoid isolated situations and secluded places



Risk Reduction Tips

00/11/16

- Double date or use the buddy system
- Have your own transportation
- Trust your gut instincts or intuition
- Be aware that the use of drugs or alcohol increases vulnerability (but does not cause sexual assault)



Risk Reduction Tips

00/11/16

- The message for female Marines:
 - Be clear with the men in your life about what, if any, sexual behavior you are consenting to.
 - Speak up if anything makes you feel uncomfortable.
 - Practice situational awareness. If you feel uneasy or uncomfortable, get out.



Risk Reduction Tips

00/11/16

- **The message for male Marines:**

- Never assume to know what a woman wants. Check all sexual activity out verbally. If you feel you are getting a double message, say so. If she says she is not sure, assume the answer is “no” and let it go.
- If a woman says “maybe,” but then decides “no,” take no for an answer.
- Never think a woman owes you sex, under any circumstances.
- Accept a woman’s decision when she says “no.”



As a Marine

00/11/16

- Essential message: If a woman is under the influence and a man has sex with her without her consent, it is still sexual assault:

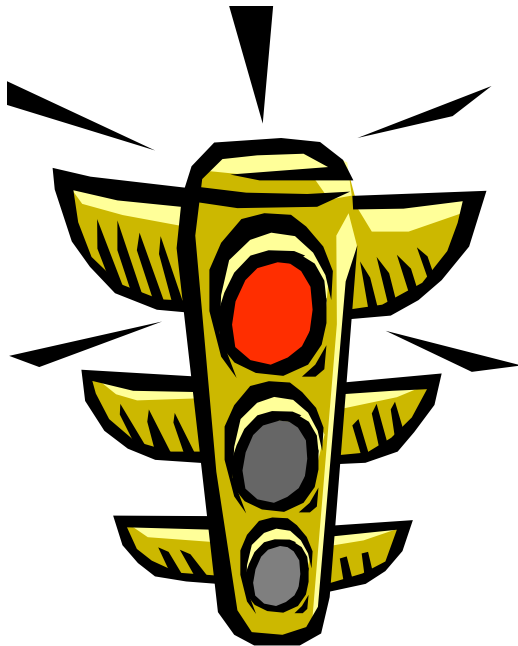
Unconscious Victim + Sexual Penetration = Sexual Assault
Incapacitated Victim + Sexual Penetration = Sexual Assault
Evidence of Disability + Sexual Penetration = Sexual Assault



As a Marine

00/11/16

If you do not
have a crystal clear
"YES"



Assume the
answer is
"NO!"



As a Marine

00/11/16

- Create a climate that is respectful to all
- Do not allow the behavior of a few to tarnish the prestige of the Marine Corps
- Always interrupt anyone you see sexually violating another person's space, either physically or verbally
- Refuse to participate in story-telling, joking or bantering that is sexually demeaning to your fellow Marines whether male or female
- Hold those in your charge accountable for sexually demeaning and aggressive behavior
- Report all incidents of sexual assault to the Provost Marshall and the command
- Become familiar with the resources in your community



As a Marine

00/11/16

Alcohol and drug use on the part of the assailant and/or the victim is one of the most important factors that contribute to date/acquaintance rape

Drink responsibly!



The Message For ALL

00/11/16

Do not blame the victim!

Hold the offender accountable for
their inappropriate behavior!

Encourage reporting to reduce the
risk to all since rapist are recidivist.



Would You Know What to Do?



If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted

- Get to a safe place with a phone
- Call someone who can help you –
police, friend, security, chaplain, rape crisis center
- **Preserve evidence** – do not bathe, shower, change clothes, eat/drink anything, or wash hands
- Get medical attention if you have physical injuries



If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted

- If you wish to report the assault, contact PMO, your Uniformed Victim Advocate, the Command, the SARC
- Make notes of as many details as you can remember
- Get assistance as needed



Reporting a Suspected Sexual Assault



BACKGROUND

00/11/16

SECNAVINST 1752.4 (Sexual
Assault Prevention and Response)
MCO 1752.5 Sexual Assault
Prevention and Response Program
ALMAR 053/04
NAVMC 2930



Mandatory Reporting

00/11/16

- All Marines are mandatory reporters of actual, suspected, or alleged sexual assaults.
- Exception: Uniform Victim Advocates (UVAs) operate under confidentiality.



Restricted Reporting

00/11/16

- Restricted reporting allows sexual assault victims to confidentially disclose the details of the assault to the victim advocates and receive counseling without triggering the official investigative process.



Reporting Requirements

00/11/16

– Reporting Requirements:

- Commanding officers shall ensure that all incidents involving sexual assault are reported to the installation military police:
 - All assaults occurring in areas under Marine Corps control or jurisdiction
 - All assaults involving any military member or DoD eligible beneficiary regardless of the location of the assault
- If the assault occurred on property not under DoD jurisdiction, the victim may choose whether or not to notify civilian or military law enforcement officials
- If law enforcement witnessed the crime, that person files a complaint on behalf of the victim



Victim Assistance



Assistance is Available

00/11/16

- Family Advocacy Program/Victim Advocate Program
 - Support rape and sexual assault prevention and education initiatives on the installation
 - Provide 24-hour crisis intervention and treatment services
 - Provide advocacy and support services to victims and their family members



Marine Corps Response

00/11/16

- According to MCO 1700-24B, Chapter 5:
 - Every Marine Corps installation establishes the Family Advocacy Program as the command program to address rape and sexual assault through a Coordinated Community Response (CCR)
 - Under the auspices of Marine and Family Services, Counseling Services include victim advocacy and rape and sexual assault response services
 - MCO 1753.5 allows victims to seek assistance from Marine and Family Counseling Services without reporting.



Marine Corps Response

00/11/16

- According to MCO 1752.5 and NAVMC 2930:
 - Rape and sexual assault are serious and violent criminal acts. Accordingly, victims of these crimes will be treated with respect, dignity and in such a manner that their privacy is maintained to the maximum extent possible.
 - The Counseling Services' primary role is to ensure victim safety and support. Victim Advocates and Counseling staff may provide treatment without reporting but will encourage the victim to report.



Role of Counseling Services

00/11/16

- Provide clinical counseling and referral
- Provide victims with information on victim's rights and services
- Provide victims with options concerning their involvement with investigative/legal personnel
- Support the command in ensuring the victim is reasonably protected from the accused
- Encourage the victim to seek medical services
- Advise the victim of reporting requirements

Victim Advocates

00/11/16



- The USMC Victim Advocates provide information, guidance and support to survivors of sexual assault
 - Accompany and support victims through medical and legal proceedings
 - Provide assistance in filing for compensation through the Victim Witness Assistance Program and other local compensation programs
 - Actively help survivors to obtain services they need and are eligible for within the USMC and civilian community
 - Support sexual assault awareness and prevention initiatives in the community



Uniformed Victim Advocates

00/11/16

- A UVA represents the command as an advocate 24/7 but is primarily utilized as a collateral duty to support victims forward deployed in addressing sexual assault
- All Deploying and Reserve units will be required to provide candidates to be trained to become an active duty Uniformed Victim Advocate
- The Uniformed Victim Advocate will provide initial support and provide a warm handoff to a supporting installation Victim Advocate for ongoing case management



CONTACT INFORMATION

00/11/16

- Help is available 24 hours, 7 days a week and 365 days a year for victims of sexual assault
- Contact local Marine and Family Services or the Navy Fleet and Family Service Center for assistance during duty hours
- After duty hours contact the local Military Police, who will refer you to a Victim Advocate for assistance and support



Sexual Assault Hotlines

09/11/16

- **National Sexual Violence Resource Center**
877-739-3895 (toll free)
(24 hour access to information, resources, and research regarding sexual assault)
- **Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN)**
635-B Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20003
800-656-HOPE
(Note: This number will connect you to your local rape crisis center.)



Understanding Sexual Assault

00/11/16

Questions?